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TNBR QATS solving industrial glitch

The company maintains proper running of individual components of power plants

by SHAHEERA AZNAM SHAH

TNBR QATS Sdn Bhd, a wholly owned subsidiary of TNB Research Sdn Bhd, is creating an awareness of its quality assurance, product inspection, laboratory testing and technical services to industry players.

"Now is the time for us to diversify and showcase our expertise to the world. We are ready more than ever to serve other companies from across industries and not just to TNB (Tenaga Nasional Bhd)," TNBR QATS GM Malathy Balakrishnan said at a seminar held in Kajang recently.

The two-day seminar was aimed at showcasing TNBR QATS' range of expertise to industry players in the energy sector, especially the independent power producers.

One of the highlights showcased by TNBR QATS was its plant inspection service, which handles condition assessment of power plant components, specifically on metallography and microscopy, as well as non-destructive testing service.

The service mainly aims to check and assure proper running of individual components of power plants, which involved in risk-based inspection, and solve problems during forced outage.

"The inspection service is important to ensure the efficiency and reliability of any power plant. Our continuous monitoring helps to keep the power plants run with zero failure," said its manager Norlia Berahim.

Established in April 2012, TNBR QATS has been serving TNB's power plants across Peninsular Malaysia and other independent power plants, as well as providing support in presentations to Department of Occupational Safety and Health Malaysia for certificate of fitness extension.

"We do mainly the inspection services for TNB's power plants, for example the Sultan Azlan Shah Power Plant (also known as Janamanjung) in Perak, Tunku Jaafar Power Station in Negri Sembilan and Sultan Iskandar Power Station in Johor. There is no doubt that maintenance is the key to keeping power plants running smoothly.

"For the past couple of years, we have provided maintenance for an oil and gas multinational corporation's power plants," she said.

In addition, the Forensic Engineering Group (FEG) is another niche service provided by TNBR QATS. The service specialises in analysing electrical and mechanical equipment failures to help reduce the recurrences and extend the reliability of such equipment.

"Our method is aimed at recognising the root cause of the failure in order to get a better understanding and mitigate the consequences. We had investigated more than 380 cases involving primary electrical and mechanical equipment failure," said FEG investigation engineer for mechanical Hafizzudin Kasim.

He added that the services adhere strictly to international standards like the American Society of Mechanical Engineers guidelines and Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Standards Association.

Established more than 15 years ago, TNBR QATS' oil and fuel laboratory provides comprehensive analyses of various types of oil samples, particularly the transformer oil, which is heavily used in the power generation sector. Equipped with qualified engineers and experienced chemists, the oil is tested according to the vast range of national and international standards such as the ISO (International Organisation for Standardisation)/IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission) 17025.

"We are Malaysia's largest and most advanced oil and fuel laboratory that is capable of analysing various kinds of oil samples. We are not only testing samples from our parent company, but independent power producers, electrical contractors and transformer manufacturer are also seeking our expertise and services.

"On top of that, our laboratory has been awarded certificate of excellence by the Institute for Interlaboratory Studies in the Netherlands for proficiency testing schemes in transformer oil and furanics on transformer oil," said its head of scientific services Zulfadhly Zardi.

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